

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been amended. Claim 10 has been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claim 9 under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner states that the claim is directed to a program and suggests amending the claim to embody the program on a "computer-readable medium" in order to make the claim statutory.

In order to avoid this rejection, applicant has amended claim 9 as suggested by the Examiner and the claim now recites "A computer-readable storage medium storing a program". Amended claim 9 is thus now believed to satisfy the provisions of 35 USC 101.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3 and 6-10 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Nakatsuma, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,115,132). The Examiner has further rejected applicant's claims 2, 4, and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable based on the latter patent taken with the Ferlitsch reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0089692), the Qiao reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0030843) and the Jacobsen reference (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0095595), respectively. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

More particularly, applicant's claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. Specifically amended claim 1 recites a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer and sends data over a network so as to print the data on a remote printer, comprising: print response means for receiving print data from the client computer and generating a print job for performing a response process when the data is printed; spooling means for generating a print completion job by spooling print job generated

by said print response means; transferring data conversion means for converting the print completion job generated by said spooling means into a format in which the job can be transferred to the remote printer over the network; and remote transfer means for transferring the print completion job converted into a transferrable format by said transferring data conversion means using a predetermined transfer protocol. Claims 8 and 9 have been similarly amended.

As can be appreciated from the above, applicant's amended claims recite a remote printing server which receives print data from a client computer. The print server spools the print completion job, converts the print completion job into the format in which the job can be transferred, and transfers the converted print completion job to a remote printer. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In particular, the Nakatsuma, et al. patent discloses a system in which print data is converted in each client and spooled, and the client requests a print operation. Additionally, in the Nakatsuma, et al. patent, a server manages only job information and issues a printable indication to the client when it is a time to print the print data. The client then passes the print data to the network printer when the client receives the printable indication. Abstract; Column 13, line 63 through column 14, line 5. Thus, in the Nakatsuma, et al. patent, the server does not receive print data nor does it transmit print data to a remote printer.

Applicant's amended claims which recite, in one form or another, "a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer and sends data over a network so as to print the data on a remote printer, comprising: print response means for receiving print data from the client computer and generating a print job for performing a response process when the data is printed; spooling means for generating a print

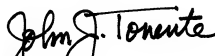
completion job by spooling print job generated by said print response means; transferring data conversion means for converting the print completion job generated by said spooling means into a format in which the job can be transferred to the remote printer over the network; and remote transfer means for transferring the print completion job converted into a transferrable format by said transferring data conversion means using a predetermined transfer protocol", thus patentably distinguish over the Nakatsuma, et al. patent. The Ferlitsch, Qiao and Jacobsen references fail to add anything to the Nakatsuma, et al. patent to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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